

## Wilma Hall

After twenty-seven years at Skidmore, Visiting Associate Professor of American Studies Wilma Hall says unequivocally that she'll remember Skidmore "for the richness of its opportunities for shared ventures in learning."

The recipient of a B.A. from Bucknell, an M.A. from Columbia, and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, Hall came to Skidmore in 1975. Since then, "she has been consistent and unwavering in her devotion to her students, her colleagues, and the educational mission of the college," comments Gregory Pfitzer, associate professor of American studies.



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Whether leading classes in the English department (including writing, romanticism, and fiction), for the Liberal Studies program ("Women, Creativity, and the Arts" and "The Human Other"), or in American studies ("American Autobiography," "Ethnicity and Immigration," and "The West"), Hall has simultaneously challenged and nurtured her students—"a combination," Pfitzer says, "that has earned her the lifelong respect and friendship of graduates." And the admiration is mutual. "I am grateful to my students and colleagues," Hall says, "for the measure of strength and understanding I have gained from our shared explorations throughout the years."

Teaming up with Carolyn Anderson of the theater department, Hall has produced plays on topics ranging from the AIDS epidemic to the effects of toxic waste. Their works have been performed locally and in theaters nationwide. They also produced a film script for the National Park Service called "The Battles of Saratoga; Turning Points of the American Revolution." Hall's most recent scholarly work, *Across High Seas: WW II Letters of Kathryn and Richard Leach*, is a volume of edited letters between a soldier in the Pacific and his wife. Besides her work as a scholar and teacher, Hall has been active on multiple campus committees.

In retirement, Hall expects to spend more time in Tucson, Ariz., where she's involved with "issues concerning the environment and Native American people. This fragile ecology gives questions of land rights and water use a special urgency." She also plans to play with her grandchildren and finish up some scholarly projects.